PETERSFIELD

BY

E. ARDEN MINTY

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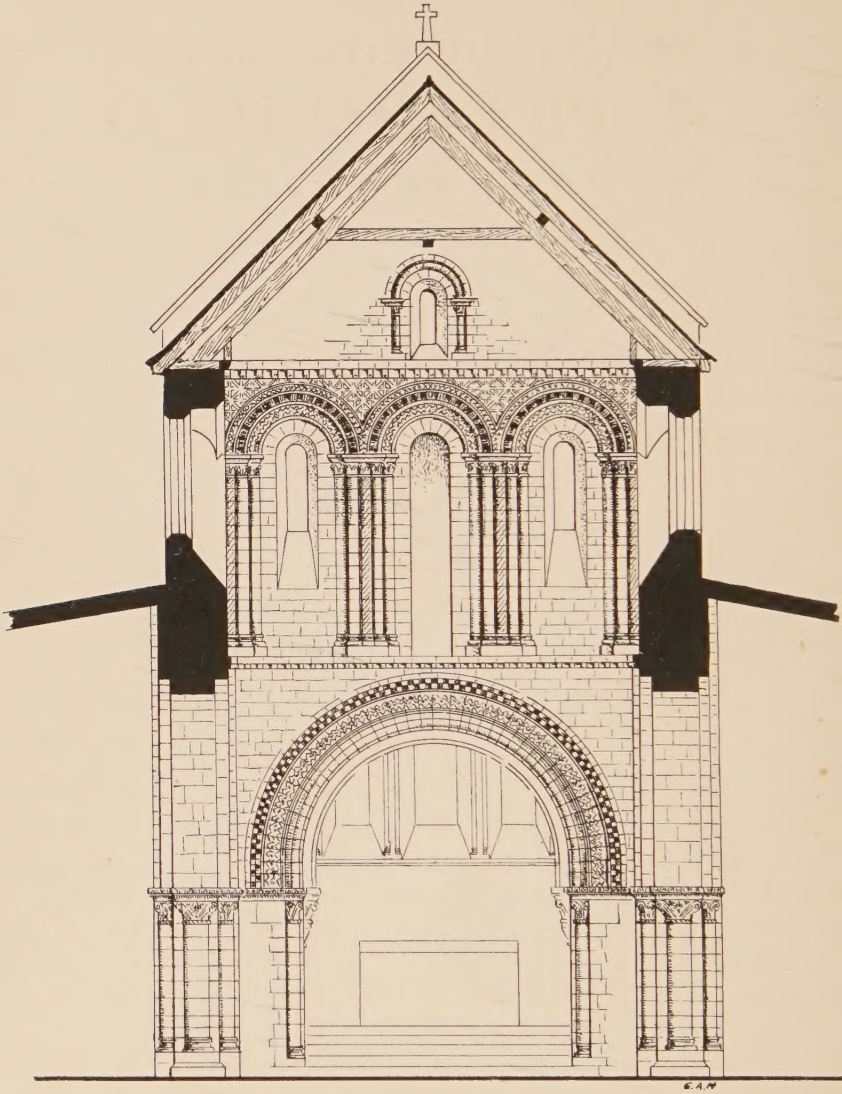


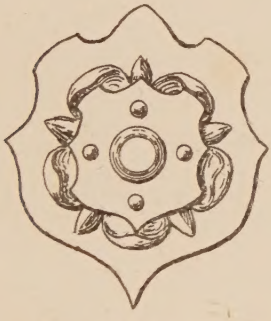
CHANCEL ARCH
PETERSFIELD CHURCH
The inner Arch shown in outline is Modern

SOME ACCOUNT OF THE HISTORY

OF PETERSFIELD

By E. ARDEN MINTY, F.R.I.B.A.

Illustrated by the Author



Arms of Petersfield

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Introduction

IN writing the following outline of the History of Petersfield, I do not profess to give an exhaustive account of all the events which have occurred during the known existence of the town. In the first place it would have entailed too heavy a task on the writer, and in the second place, it would involve the introduction of a large amount of matter which would be of no particular interest to the general reader.

Of course, in writing a history of any sort the work must consist mostly of compilation, and in compiling the present book I have used largely 'The History of Petersfield,' by the Rev. J. Williams, published at Petersfield in 1857. I have also availed myself of a series of articles published in *The Hants and Sussex News* in 1892, kindly lent to me by Mr. F. Carpenter, the editor; also of some articles on Hampshire Parishes in *The Hampshire County Times* by Herbert Fisher, published in 1911, and of the 'Victoria History of the Counties,' from all of which works I have quoted considerably.

I have also received valuable information from Mr. A. C. Mackarness, and my thanks are due to Mr. W. H. Read for some anecdotes which I have used.

The surrounding villages I have only just alluded to, as some of them have been separately described by others, such as 'The History of Selborne' (Gilbert White) and 'The History of Harting' (Rev. H. D. Gordon), in which there is an exhaustive account of the natural history and geology of the neighbourhood, so

I have not included these subjects in this little book.

The compiling of this history has been a task of some considerable trouble, and the writer hopes his readers will forgive him for any inaccuracies, which no doubt will be detected, especially as regards dates, as these are not always easy to verify; but he has done his best with the information available.

E. A. M.

July, 1922.

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Petersfield

THE South Downs extend from east to west a short distance from the coast of Sussex and culminate in their highest point, Butser Hill, 889 ft. above sea level, a few miles over the border in Hampshire. The character of the hills, after leaving Butser, changes somewhat: they take a northerly direction, with a slight bend to the east, and instead of bare downs are, in many instances, clothed with hanging beech woods, from which they derive their name of hangers. They end with Whetham Hanger above Hawkley, and Selborne.

About two miles from the foot of the hills, forming this hook, is situated the town of Petersfield on a small tributary of the River Rother.

The hills are of secondary geological formation. The South Downs being chalk, superimposed on green-sand, but the Wealden crops up in the valleys; and in the case of the hangers there is a tertiary deposit on the top of the chalk.

The views are, of course, very extensive from the summit of the Downs. Perhaps the finest is from the top of Stoner, in the parish of Froxfield. One has a magnificent panorama of the South Downs sweeping away into Sussex, and a glimpse of the sea can be obtained, through a gap in the hills, on the other side of the valley to the south.

The view over Woolmer Forest from Whetham Hill (813 ft. above sea level), which is about

the only thing Cobbett admires in his book, 'Rural Rides,' is somewhat similar, but not quite so extensive as the one from Stoner (770 ft.).

There is no mention of Petersfield in Doomsday Book, but it was probably included in the entry under Maple Durham in Finchdean.

The Church, which was founded in 1100 by Bishop Walkelyn and stands on the south side of the Market Square, was originally a chapel to the Mother Church of Buriton, a village about three miles away to the south-east at the foot of the Downs. It is dedicated to St. Peter, hence the name of Petersfield, originally St. Peter's-in-the-fields. In the thirteenth century it was called Petrefeld and Peterfend, and in the fourteenth century Petresfeld.

I am inclined to think that it was originally a cruciform building with a central tower and without aisles, the existing chancel arch with the arcading over it forming the east wall of the tower. Probably it was the removal of the west walls of the transepts, when the aisles were built, which caused the tower to become unsafe or to fall, there being nothing left to resist the thrust of the western arch.

Perhaps the western tower was built before the aisles to provide a larger belfry, the central tower being a lantern open into the Church and boarded over on the top of the triple arcade, which would leave very little space above for bells.

Eastmeon Church has a central tower of about the same date, and was probably originally a lantern; but it has been boarded over below the arcading to form a belfry.

When the Church was restored by the late Sir Arthur Blomfield, Architect, in 1873, a clerestory was added to include the east wall of the former central tower or lantern which, under the circumstances, was probably about the best way of treating the building; but it is to be regretted that funds did not permit of rebuilding the central tower.

Probably both the transepts were chapels; we can certainly conclude that the south transept was, as there is a piscina in the south wall near the east end.

There is also a second piscina farther down the wall of the south aisle, so there was probably an altar here against the west wall of the transept before it was pulled down and thrown into the aisle.

The upper part of the existing west tower and the parapet are of later date than the lower portion, so it is quite possible that this tower was not carried up to its existing height till after the central tower had disappeared, as a country parish church with two towers is a most unusual occurrence, especially in Hampshire.

While the work of restoration to the Church was going on it was discovered that the chancel was originally six feet longer towards the east. Sir Arthur Blomfield suggested that it should be restored to its original length, but unfortunately funds did not permit of this, which would have been a great improvement, as a glance at the plan will show how much too small the present chancel is for a church of this size.*

*The east wall of chancel had to be rebuilt, so it would not have involved destroying any existing work.

There are many mural monuments now collected under the tower and at the west end of the aisles: some of them were formerly in the chancel. They are of some artistic interest: one of them is by Chantry, and many of them are memorials to members of the Jolliffe Family—the late Lord Hylton being one of the Lords of the Manor. The present peer has, however, practically separated his connection with the place. Heath Lodge, where Sir William Jolliffe, the first Lord Hylton, lived, was I believe, the Dower House of the family. He was for some years Member of Parliament for Petersfield.

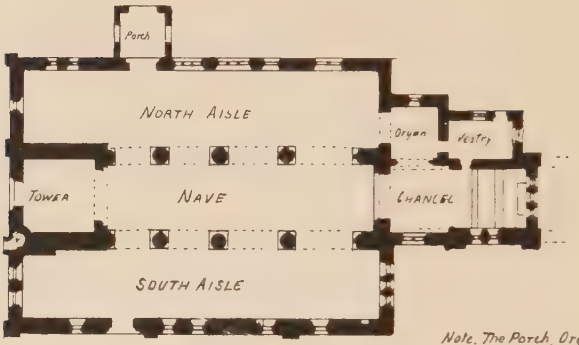
The erection of the Church has been attributed to Queen Matilda, wife of William the Conqueror, and it is possible that it was designed by Bishop Walkelyn, the builder of Winchester Cathedral, and also probably of Eastmeon Church.

The aisles, which are of rather unusual width, were added afterwards, and extend as far as the west wall of the existing bell tower. Inside the Church on the east wall of the tower appears a chamfered drip course, marking the height and pitch of the original nave roof.

Probably many of the windows from the side walls of the former nave were rebuilt in the north and south walls of the aisles when they were added. There is an early thirteenth-century window in the eastern portion of the south aisle, and some fifteenth-century windows were afterwards substituted in the north aisle.

PETERSFIELD CHURCH

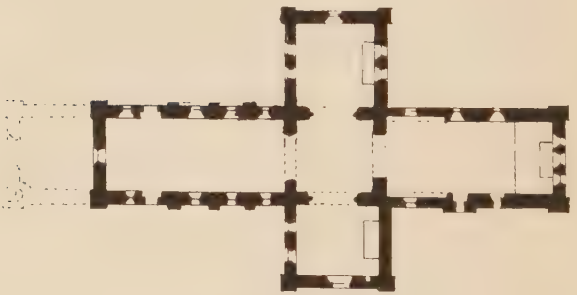
PLANS



Note. The Porch, Organ Chamber and Vestry are Modern.

SINCE 1874

Scale of Feet



ABOUT A.D. 1140

On each side of the chancel, in the walls immediately within the chancel arch, are shallow recesses; that on the north side has been arched over and forms an opening to the organ chamber. This is modern.

An inscription used to hang on the pillar north of the chancel arch as follows:

'A wall eight feet long was taken down, and this pillar and two arches new raised and turned. Also a wall of the same length taken down on the other side, and that arch new turned, Anno Domini, 1731.

'John Gaman and Arthur Pescod, Churchwardens.'

In 1841, during some repairs to the interior, a fresco was discovered on one of the pillars, but was immediately defaced; it seems to have represented St. Christopher bearing the Infant Christ.

There is an ancient Charter from William, Earl of Gloucester, giving the patronage of the Church of Mapledresham (Mapledurham) with the Chapel of Peteresfield to the Nuns of Eaton (Nuneaton) in Warwickshire.

It appears, however, that the rights and privileges of the Church were reserved, for his life, to Thomas, who then held the Church.

Thomas was the son of Thurbratus, who held the Church at the time of the siege of Toulouse, A.D. 1159, fifth year of Henry II, where Hamon, a brother of Earl William, was killed.

This was probably about the time the south transept or chapel was built, and it may have been a memorial to Robert, father of William, or to his brother Hamon.

Earl Robert died A.D. 1147, and was succeeded by his son William, who married Hawysa, daughter of Bossu, Earl of Leicester, who founded the Abbey of Nuneaton in the reign of Stephen.

Nuneaton Abbey Church was a large cruciform building without aisles, thereby resembling Petersfield Church, only on a larger scale, and the architecture was of a rather later period.

Nothing remained of Nuneaton Abbey Church in the middle of the nineteenth century, but portions of the lower part of the columns at the crossing, which supported the central tower, and the foundations and portions of the walls at the west end of the nave, etc.

A portion of this nave was rebuilt in 1876 as a parish church. The late Clapton C. Rolfe was the architect. Since then the chancel has also been rebuilt, but much remains to be done to complete the Church.

Earl William gave the first Charter constituting Petersfield a Market Town. It is lost, but is confirmed by an old Charter in the parish chest to the following effect:

'Know all men, present and to come, that I, Hawisa, Countess of Gloucester, have granted and confirmed to my Burgesses of Petersfield who have built and are settled, and who shall build in it, all liberties and free customs in the same Borough which the citizens of Winchester have in their city, who are in a guild of merchants; and let them have the same (liberties and customs) in a guild of merchants as my

PETERSFIELD CHURCH
ABOUT A.D. 1140

husband, William, Earl of Gloucester, granted to them by his charter.

'Witnesses: William, Abbot of Dureford; William, Abbot of Chainsham; Guido, Prior of Sandwich; Henry Hoese; William de Falaise; Robert de St. Remy; William of Suneward; Gregory, the Chaplain, etc.'

We can conclude that Petersfield was a place of some importance in those days; for it had a market, a guild of merchants, and a church which would accommodate a large congregation, so that Petersfield, owing to its superiority in the situation of its mills, its woollen manufactures, its markets, etc., and supported by the monks of Durford Abbey, would soon outstrip its mother parish of Buriton. So we find that Pope Alexander III, in his confirmation of Earl William's grant to Nuneaton, calls it 'The Church of Petersfield with the Chapel of Mapledresham' (Buriton).*

When William of Gloucester died he left three daughters surviving. After Countess Hawisa's death, Henry II married his son John, Earl of Moreton, to the youngest, Isabella (she is sometimes called Avisa, a female name which survives in the neighbourhood as Avis), and bestowed upon them the Manors of the Earl of Gloucester. There is a charter from John still extant, similar in effect to that of his mother-in-law.

John, on his accession to the throne, granted the Manors of Maplederham and Petersfield to Earl Evreux, who married another daughter of William, Earl of Gloucester. The Earl of

* Dugdale in Nuneaton.

Evreux, however, soon gave John a pretext for seizing his English property.

In A.D.1215 (the year of Magna Charta) the Manors of Petersfield and Maplederham were granted to Geoffrey de Mandeville, Earl of Essex, who had married Isabella, she having been previously divorced by John. Geoffrey agreed to pay 20,000 marks for this and other property, while John reserved Gloucester and Bristol for himself.

Geoffrey, however, soon forfeited his purchase. Amicia, third daughter of William, Earl of Gloucester, was now sole heiress of her father. She had married Richard de Clare, Earl of Hertford, and he received a grant of this property and was created Earl of Gloucester.

In 1262, Henry III's reign, Earl Richard was succeeded by Gilbert Rufus, who first took the side of de Montfort. In fact, the Earl of Gloucester was second in power to de Montfort, and it was his defection which contributed mainly to de Montfort's overthrow.

Petersfield men followed their Prince to the Crusades. Besides the Earl of Gloucester, 'Siward de Maplederham' occurs among the names of those to whose property protection was given by Henry III during their absence.*

In the 'Taxatio Ecclesiastica,' 1291, twentieth Edward I, Pope Nicholas granted tenths of Benefices towards expenses incurred by the King in his expedition to the Holy Land. It was made under the direction of John, Bishop of Winton, and Oliver, Bishop of Lincoln.

* Rymer's 'Fœdera.'

	Taxation. £ s. d.	*Tenths.* £ s. d.
Ecclesia de Maplederham cum capella	46 13 4	4 13 4
Vicaria de Eastmeones ..	16 13 4	
Prior de Seleburne apud Shete ad	0 17 0	
Prior de Sancto Swithino habet maneria de Mapelderham	24 7 1¾	

Our connection with the monastery dedicated to St. Swithin came about through the exchange of some land here for some in the Isle of Portland, between the Monks and Richard de Clare, A.D. 1272, in the reign of Henry III. That land was afterwards given to Magdalen College, Oxford. We find in 'Valor Ecclesiasticus,' Henry VIII, this College had land in the parish, subject to a small payment to Petersfield Church.

Gilbert de Clare married Joan, a daughter of Edward I.

Among the records in the Tower of London, twenty-fourth Edward I, there is an inquiry, on the death of Gilbert de Clare, Earl of Gloucester and Hertford, as to his property.

'Gilbert de Clare held the town of Petresfelde of his Lord the King in Chief, as part of the house of Gloucester; £7 15s. 5d. was paid yearly as rent by the freemen; two Court Leets held yearly 26s. 8d.; a market 100s. per annum; pleas and perquisites of a Court Baron 26s. 8d. Sum £15 8s. 9d.

'The same Gilbert held Maplederham Manor, paying £10 7s. 10d.; a water mill 10s. per annum; and other perquisites, sum £13 20d. per ann.'*

This period was the first in which we have any record of Members of Parliament for Petersfield.

In a certificate of sheriffs of England, knights, citizens, and burgesses, elected to Parliament to be held at Carlisle, we find:

Henricus de Celario } pro burgo de
Ricardus atte Brouke } Peteresfield.

To Gilbert (Rufus) succeeded his son Gilbert, a man of importance in the reign of Edward II. He was killed at the Battle of Bannockburn, A.D.1314.

Gilbert's only child married Hugh de Audelay, and their only child married Ralph, Earl of Stafford. The de Clares then became the influential family at Petersfield.

In an inquisition taken 46th Edward III, 1373, the borough was returned as worth £6 per annum; a market every Saturday 4s. per annum; two fairs on the feasts of St. Peter and St. Andrew (June 29th and November 30th) 2s. 6d. per annum. Also there are four hamlets —Maplederham, Weston, Nurstede, and Shete, worth £9 per annum; also pleas and perquisites of Courts worth 20s. per annum.

In 1403, in the reign of Henry IV, Edmund, Earl of Stafford, was killed at the Battle of Shrewsbury, fighting on the King's side.

* Records in the Tower of London, 24th Edward I.

St PETER'S CHURCH FROM THE SQUARE

In the 6th Edward VI, A.D. 1552, Petersfield again sent members to Parliament, for the first time since the reign of Edward I. The members were Sir Anthony Brown and John Vaughan, Esq. The Browns were at this time owners of Cowdray, Midhurst.

From then Petersfield returned two members till the Reform Bill, 2nd William IV, 1832; from then one, until the Franchise and Redistribution Acts of 1885, since which time Petersfield has given its name to the Eastern Division of Hampshire.

At the time of the passing of the Reform Act, 1832, the borough limits were extended to include the parishes of Petersfield, Buriton, Lyss, and Froxfield, the tythings of Ramsdean, Langrish, and Oxenbourne, in the parish of Eastmeon, and the greater part of the parish of Steep.

In the time of the Civil War, Colonel Norton, Cromwell's Lieutenant, was returned for Petersfield and Portsmouth, and about the same time Benjamin Tichborne, a Royalist, was also a member.

In the next century the Jolliffes became owners of the Manor, and its members, with few intermissions, represented the borough from 1734 to 1880. The first member of the family to be returned was Sir William Jolliffe in 1734.

A petition against the return of Edmund Miller, Serjeant-at-Law, was brought in 1726, but was unsuccessful.

M.P.'s. Lords of the Manor

1307. Henricus de Celario; Ricardus atte Brooke.

1552. Sir Anthony Browne, Kt.; John Vaughan, Esq.

1553. Sir Anthony Browne, Kt.; George Rythe, Esq.

1554. March 19. John Vaughan, Esq.; * Henry Weston, Esq.

1554. October 27. John Vaughan, Esq.; * Henry Weston, Esq.

1555. September 22. Christopher Rythe, Esq.; * Henry Weston, Esq.

1557. July 10. * Henry Weston, Esq.; Christopher Rithe, Esq.

1562-3. (No date of return.) * Sir Henry Weston, Kt.; Thomas Deringe, Esq.

1572. April 15. Richard Norton, Gent.; Thomas Chatterton, Gent.

1584. November 8. Sir Henry Weston, Kt.; Edmund Marvyn, Gent.

1586. October 7. Edmund Marvyn, Gent.; Edward Radecliff, Esq.

1588. November 8. Benj. Tichborne, Esq.; Edmund Marvyn, Gent.

1592-3. (No date of return.) Sir William Coverte; Richard Weston, Esq.

1597. October 4. William Kingsmill, Esq.; * Thomas Hanbury.

1601. (No date.) William Kingsmill, Esq.; John Swynnerton, Jun., Gent.

1603. March 10. Sir Richard Norton, Kt.; Sir William Harvye, Kt.

1620. December 30. Sir Richard Norton, Kt.; Sir John Norton, Kt.

1623. January 16. Sir John Jephson, Kt.; Sir John Hippersley, Kt.

1625. April 25. Sir William Uvedale, Kt.; Sir John Jephson.

1626. January 20. Sir William Uvedale, Kt.; Benjamin Tichborne, Esq.

1627. February 29. Sir William Uvedale, Kt.; Sir William Lewys, Bart.

1640. M— 10. Sir William Uvedale, Kt.; Sir William Lewys, Bart.

1658. December 28. Sir Henry Norton, Bart.; Josias Child, Esq.

1660. April 9. Thomas Cole, Esq.; Arthur Bold, Esq.

1661. April 15. Arthur Bold, Esq.; Sir Humphrey Bennett.

1667-8. February 14. Thomas Neale, Esq., *vice* Sir Humphrey Bennett, deceased.

1677. May 8. Leonard Bilson, Esq., *vice* A. Bold, deceased.

1678. February 18. Sir John Norton, Bart.; Leonard Bilson, Esq.

1679. August 19. Sir John Norton, Bart.; Leonard Bilson, Esq.

1680. February 18. Sir John Norton of Rotherfield, in the Parish of East Tisted, Co. Southampton; Leonard Bilson, Esq., of West Mapledurham, Parish of Buriton, Co. Southampton.

1684-5. March 19. Sir John Norton; Thos. Bilson, Esq.

1688-9. January 11. Thos. Bilson, of West Mapledurham, Co. Southampton; Robert Mitchell, Esq., of Petersfield.

1689. February 28. Robert Mitchell; Richard Holt.

1695. October 31. Robert Mitchell; Richard Holt.

1698. July 21. Robert Mitchell; Peter Betesworth.

1700. January 6. Richard Marks, Esq.; * Ralph Bucknall, Esq.

1701. November 28. Robert Mitchell; Richard Marks.

1702. July 20. Robert Mitchell; Richard Marks.

1703. January 13. Leonard Bilson, Esq., *vice* Richard Marks, deceased.

1705. May 11. Norton Powlett, Esq.; Leonard Bilson, Esq.

1708. May 3. Norton Powlett, Esq.; Leonard Bilson, Esq.

1710. October 7. Norton Powlett, Esq.; Leonard Bilson, Esq.

1713. August 24. Norton Powlett, Esq.; Leonard Bilson, Esq.

1714. January 20. Norton Powlett, Esq.; Leonard Bilson, Esq.

1721. March 21. Norton Powlett, Esq.; Edmund Miller, Sergeant-at-Law.
Norton Powlett, Esq., re-elected after appointment to an office of profit by the Crown.

1727. August 21. Joseph Taylor, Esq.; Norton Powlett, Esq.

1734. April 27. Sir William Jolliffe, Kt.; Edw. Gibbon, Esq.

1741. May 21. Francis Fane, Esq.; John Jolliffe, Esq.

1747. July 2. * John Jolliffe, Esq.; William Conolly, Esq., of Stratton Hall, Co. Stafford.

1754. February 9. William Gerard Hamilton, Esq., of Bond Street, Co. Middlesex, *vice* William Conolly, deceased.

1754. April 19. W. G. Hamilton, Esq. (one speech Hamilton); William Beckford, Alderman of London.

1754. December 9. Sir John Philips, Bart., of Norbiton Place, Surrey, *vice* William Beckford (father of the author of 'Vathek'), who elected to serve for the City of London.

1761. April 1. John Jolliffe, Esq.; Richard Pennant, Esq., of Horsley, Surrey.

1767. December 17. Richard Croftes, Esq., *vice* Richard Pennant, who accepted the Stewardship of the Chiltern Hundreds, Bucks.

1768. March 22. Welbore Ellis, Esq., of Privy Garden, Whitehall, Middlesex; William Jolliffe, Esq.

1770. February 8. Welbore Ellis, Esq., re-elected after appointment as Vice-Treasurer of Ireland; William Jolliffe, re-elected after appointment as one of the Commissioners of Trade and Plantations.

1774. October 7. Sir Abraham Hume, Bart., of Wormley, Bury, Herts.; William Jolliffe, Esq.

1780. September 6. William Jolliffe, Esq.; Thos. Samuel Jolliffe, Esq., of Trotton, Sussex.

1783. April 15. William Jolliffe, Esq., re-elected after appointment as one of the Lord Commissioners of the Admiralty.

1784. March 31. William Jolliffe, Esq.; Thos. Samuel Jolliffe, Esq.

1790. June 16. Geo. Augustus North, Esq.; William Jolliffe, Esq.

1790. December 29. William Henry Cavendish Bentinck, commonly called Marquis of Tichfield, *vice* Geo. A. North, commonly called Lord North, who accepted the Stewardship of the Chiltern Hundreds, Bucks.

1791. April 29. Welbore Ellis, Esq., *vice* Marquis of Tichfield.

1795. January 12. Charles Greville, Esq., *vice* Welbore Ellis, Esq., called to the Upper House as Lord Mendip.

1796. May 26. William Jolliffe, Esq.; Hylton Jolliffe, Esq.

1797. January 7. Sir John Sinclair, Bart., *vice* Hylton Jolliffe, Esq., who accepted Stewardship of Chiltern Hundreds.

1802. March 29. Hylton Jolliffe, Esq., of Merstham, Surrey, *vice* William Jolliffe, Esq., deceased 29th March, 1802.

1802. July 6. William Best, Sergeant-at-Law; Hylton Jolliffe, Esq.

1806. October 31. William Ward, Esq.; Hylton Jolliffe, Esq.

1807. May 6. Hylton Jolliffe, Esq.; Booth Grey, Esq., of Westminster, Middlesex.

1812. October 9. Hylton Jolliffe, Esq.; George Canning, Esq.

1812. December 24. George Canning, Esq., *vice* George Canning, who elected to serve for Liverpool.

1818. June 18. Hylton Jolliffe, Esq.; George Canning, Esq.

1820. March 9. Beaumont Hotham, Baron Hotham of the Kingdom of Ireland; Hylton Jolliffe, Esq.

1820. June 27. Sir Philip Musgrave, Bart., *vice* Lord Hotham, who elected to serve for Leominster, Hereford.

1825. April 2. James Law Lushington, Colonel in the East India Company's service, *vice* Sir Philip Musgrave, who accepted Chiltern Hundreds.

1826. June 10. Hylton Jolliffe, Esq.; William Marshall, Esq., of Potterdale, Westmoreland.

1830. August 2. Sir William George Hylton Jolliffe, Bart.; Gilbert East Jolliffe, Esq.

1831. May 2. Sir W. G. H. Jolliffe, Bart.; Hylton Jolliffe, Esq.

1835. January 7. Cornthwaite John Hector, Esq.

1837. July 25. Cornthwaite John Hector, Esq.

1841. June 29. * Sir W. G. H. Jolliffe, Bart.

1847. July 30. *Sir W. G. H. Jolliffe, Bart.

1852. July 7. *Sir W. G. H. Jolliffe, Bart.

1857. April 27. *Sir W. G. H. Jolliffe, Bart.

1859. April 29. *Sir W. G. H. Jolliffe, Bart.

1865. July 11. *Sir W. G. H. Jolliffe, Bart.

1866. July 23. William Nicholson, Esq., of Basing, *vice* Sir W. Jolliffe, called to Upper House as Lord Hylton.

1868. November 17. William Nicholson, of Basing Park.

An Old World Garden.

1874. February 5. Sidney Hylton Jolliffe, of Heath House, Petersfield.

1880. Mr. W. Nicholson.

1885.
1886. } Lord Wolmer (now Lord Selborne).

1892. July 13. W. Wickham, Esq.

From 1897, on the death of W. Wickham, to present date, Col. W. Nicholson.

An inquiry, called 'The Petersfield Case,' was made by committees of the House of Commons in 1820 and 1821 on an election petition against the return of Mr. Jolliffe and Lord Hotham. The petition was eventually decided in favour of the sitting members.

The father of Edward Gibbon (the Historian) was member for Petersfield in 1734. He was owner of Buriton Manor.

The last petition took place in 1874 against the return of Captain the Hon. Sidney Hylton Jolliffe. This was also unsuccessful.

From the time of Earl William's Charter till 1884 Petersfield elected its Mayor at the Court Leet on the first Monday in Epiphany. The last Mayor was the late Col. S. W. Seward, who held office in 1883-1884. On the Redistribution Act of 1885 the Mayor was deprived of his only duty, that of returning officer for the Parliamentary borough; so the Court Leet was discontinued. Under the Local Government Act the town is now governed by an Urban District Council.

The town seems to have increased in importance under the Tudors, due to the development of its cloth and leather manufactories. There is a report made by the Mayor about 350 years ago in which he says: 'The said Borough heretofore, hath maintained one thousand poore people in work by the trade of cloathing, without begginge.' There was also a considerable trade in tanning carried on.

Sir Henry Weston sold his property to Thomas Hanbury, Auditor of the Exchequer, who died in A.D. 1617. A dispute arose between him and the people of Petersfield, which led to a long lawsuit, as to whose were the market tolls, etc. It was eventually decided in favour of the Hanburys. The case is reported in a book entitled 'Report of the Case of the Borough of Petersfield,' printed by Thomas Davison, Whitefriars, 1831.

It has been said that Queen Elizabeth gave Petersfield a Royal Charter, but no such document can be found. There is, however, a mace for the Mayor with the Royal Arms on it, and the monogram E. R. with date 12th March, 1596.

The Parish Register begins in the year 1558, the last year of Philip and Mary. From this it appears that thirty-six was the average of deaths for the next ten years.

This includes the year 1568, which reckoned eighty-three deaths in August, September, and October—three, four, five, and six in a day—140 in all. There was an epidemic raging in the town at the time.

This plague appears to have originated

amongst the soldiers withdrawn from the attempt to capture Le Havre, as a set-off against the loss of Calais.

In the time of the Civil War, though Petersfield does not seem to have been the site of any very striking events, the inhabitants must have seen a good deal of the manœuvring of the rival forces as they passed between Arundel, Winchester, and Basing. It was garrisoned for the King when Lord Hopton made his advance upon Arundel in December, 1643; but the occupation did not last long, as Sir William Waller's men were in possession the following March. Sir William Balfour held it with four thousand horse and dragoons on the eve of the fight at Cheriton. In the January following a party of Cavalier horse halted in the neighbourhood, but soon proceeded to Winchester and Portsmouth. Three days later Parliamentary troops, to the number of six thousand horse and dragoons, were quartered in the town. The nearest fighting seems to have taken place at Westmeon.*

There is little record of the religious state of the town in those days. An extract from the register informs us:

*There were, however, two engagements between small forces of either side at Harting: one 10th December, 1643, and the other just before Christmas in the same year. In the first the King's forces gained the victory, in the last the Parliamentary party.

For details of these engagements see the 'Mercurius Aulicus,' or 'Court Mercury,' one of the earliest newspapers ever published, and 'Royalist Compositions,' Vol. II (Record Office).

'Memorand—That Symon fflood, of Petersfield, was elected and chosen Register of Petersffeild, and sworn into the said office the 7th day of December, 1653.

Before us: Thos. Cole,
Edw^d. Hughes.'

From a roll of Popish Recusants, 34th Elizabeth, there appears only one name from Petersfield: 'Thomas Neave, nuper de Petersfeld, Yoman,' and he seems to have left the neighbourhood. Bishop Gardiner had given the right of presentation to the Rectory of Maplederham to one 'Thomas Neave, Scrivener, of London, for this one term only.'

The same list gives the names of 'Maria Ringe, wife of R^d. Ringe; Anthony Boyce, husbondman; Ursula Parson, spinster; all of Hambledon. Of Buryton, Thomas Kent, yoman; Johanna Crowcher; Arthur Rickman; Maria Blackman, wife of Henry Blackman; Emma Okelie; Elizabeth Geale; and Ralph Geale, yoman.'

The first mention we have of a Nonconformist place of worship is of an Independent (Congregational) chapel about 120 years ago, when Robert Densham (known as 'Honest Densham') was the minister. In 1801 he commenced his ministrations in Chapel Street, but in 1803 built a new chapel in College Street on the site of the old poorhouse. R. Densham was buried beneath the pulpit of the Congregational chapel in College Street. He died 26th July, 1805, aged thirty-six. The present chapel was built in 1883.

The Wesleyans first started in a building 32 ft. by 16 ft. in 1826, but moved to a chapel they had built in 1828. A new chapel was built in The New Way (now renamed St. Peter's Road) in 1871. This chapel was sold in 1905, and is now St. Peter's Hall, an assembly room for parish and other purposes. A new Wesleyan church and schoolroom were built in the Station Road in 1903; and a Roman Catholic church dedicated to St. Lawrence, on the opposite side of Station Road, was built by Mr. Lawrence Cave, of Ditcham, in 1890. A Methodist chapel has also been built in Station Road in 1903.

Mr. John Jolliffe built Petersfield House in the Lawn, where his father-in-law, Mr. Robert Mitchell, previously had his dwelling. It was a fine red-brick mansion with stone dressings, and occupied the site of the present schools and police station.

The house was pulled down in 1793, little more than sixty years after its erection, owing to parish disputes, and the wrought gates of Sussex iron removed to Merstham House, Redhill, where they are at present.

In the centre of the square stands an equestrian statue of William III, attired as a Roman General. It originally stood in St. Peter's Road, opposite the entrance to the grounds of Petersfield House; it is of lead, and was formerly gilt. It was repaired in 1910, when, for some unexplained reason, a scroll was placed in King William's right hand instead of a General's baton, which it held formerly.

Where the Co-operative Store is now there

was an inn, called after this statue, 'The Golden Horse.'

The money for this statue was left by Sir William Jolliffe in 1750, he or his father having been one of the gentlemen who invited William of Orange to this country to take the place of James II. It was removed to its present position in 1815.

The following inscription is painted on the pedestal:

Illustrissimo Celcissimo Principi
GULIELMO TERTIO
Qui ob plurima quam maxuma Officia
De his Gentibus optime meritus est
Qui Rempublicam pene labefactum
Fortiter sustentavit.
Qui puram et sincerum Dei cultum
Tempestive conservavit
Qui legibus vim suam Senatuiq: auctoritatem
Restituit et stabilavit
Gulielmus Jolliffe Eques
Ne aliquid qualecumque deesset Testimonium
Quanto cum amore Studioq: tam ipsam
Libertatem
Quam egregium hunc Libertatis Vindicem
Prosecutus est
Hanc Statuam TESTAMENTO suo dicavit
Et in hoc Municipio poni curavit.

Samuele Tufnel
Exts. Edwardo Northey
Johanne Jolliffe

From the south-west corner of the Square

JOHN GOODYER'S HOUSE

runs a narrow street, named Sheep Street. This leads into an oblong space, surrounded by houses, called 'The Spain.' The name is supposed by many to be accounted for on the assumption that there was formerly a market for Spanish wool held here. There is, however, no proof of this, but at one time a horse market was held in 'The Spain.'

'The Spain' has somewhat the character of a compromise between a cathedral close and a village green. It is covered with grass, intersected by roadways, and on the north side is a row of lime and elm trees.

In the south-west corner of 'The Spain' is one of the oldest houses in Petersfield; it was at one time the residence of John Goodyer, the Naturalist, as a plaque on the wall sets forth in the following words:

John Goodyer
Botanist and Royalist
(1592–1664)
lived here.

Goodyer was born at Alton in 1592. He appears to have acted as Steward to Sir Thomas Bilson, of Mapledurham. He was living at Mapledurham in 1631, but it is not known when he moved to the house in 'The Spain,' formerly called 'The Great House,' now 'St. Aubyns.'

Sir Thomas Bilson's father (the Bishop of Winchester, 1597-1616) purchased the Manor of West Mapledurham in 1605 from the widow and sons of Henry Shelley.

Mapledurham House was pulled down in

1829, and some of the oak panelling removed from it is now in the house at Down Place, Harting.

Goodyer's house is one of the most interesting in the town, and is well worthy of inspection. Tradition says it was once a convent, but I can find no corroboration of this.

When Petersfield was garrisoned for King Charles under Ralph, Lord Hopton, Goodyer being a 'King's man,' a protection order was granted him by Lord Hopton. This document was accidentally discovered in 1907, concealed under a floor board in a room in Goodyer's house in 'The Spain.' It runs as follows:

'To all Colonels, Sergant-Majors, Captains and Commanders, Officers and soldiers of his Ma^ts^ army both of horse and foot and to all other his Ma^ts^ officers and loving subjects whom these may concerne.

'These are in his Ma^ts^ name to will and command you and every and either of you not to fayle upon all occasions to defend and protect John Goodyer of Petersfield in the county of Southton Gent: his house horses servants family goods chattels and estates of all sortes from all damages disturbances and oppressions whatsoevere to the uttermost of yo^r^ abillitys And that you and every of you forbeare to grieve or molest him the sayd John Goodyer or any of his as aforesayd requiring hereunto yo^r^ due obedience as you will answere the contrary at yo^r^ uttermost perill Given under my hand and seale the 9th December 1643.

Ralph Hopton.'

(From a letter by Mabel E. Wootton in *The Hants and Sussex News*, 11th April, 1917.)

The old houses and the Town Hall, which formerly stood on the south side of the Square, concealing the church, were pulled down in 1898, and the stone colonnade, from the front of the Town Hall, was re-erected in its present position next to the Market Inn, and serves as a receptacle for the hurdles which are used on market days to form pens for sheep, etc.

On the west side of the Square, until a few years ago, stood the Castle House, which with its ivy-clad front formed one of the most picturesque objects to be seen in Petersfield.

In architecture it dated from the end of the sixteenth century, and contained some very fine panelling and chimney-pieces. There is a tradition that a religious house once stood here, which was connected by an underground passage with the church; some corroboration of this tradition is given by the fact that some years ago a tunnel was discovered under the foundations of the building leading in the direction of the church.

The house, which was then an inn, is mentioned by Samuel Pepys in his Diary as having entertained Charles II and his Lady on their way to Portsmouth, and that they played bowls here. Pepys was more than once at Petersfield.

Charles II created Mademoiselle de Querovalle Duchess of Portsmouth, Baroness of Petersfield and Countess of Fareham.

Pepys also mentions under the date April, 1667, that he had been informed 'that during the late plague, one side of the street at Petersfield had every house almost infected through the town, and the other not one shut up.'

The Castle House is now, unfortunately, pulled down, and its site occupied by the new building of the London Joint City and Midland Bank, and the Post Office.

Amongst other writers who have alluded to Petersfield in their works is Conan Doyle, in 'Micah Clarke.'

In about 1731 the Castle House became the property of John Jolliffe, and remained in the Jolliffe family for over fifty years, being let to Mr. Carter, Lord of the Manor of Mapledurham, on a lease of 999 years about the end of the eighteenth century.

The late John Bonham Carter, M.P. for Winchester and Chairman of Committees under Mr. Gladstone's first administration, resided in the Castle House until he moved to the mansion of St. Mary's Adhurst, which he built at Sheet. The house was afterwards a school for some years, and then let as a dwelling-house, till it was pulled down in 1913.

There are not many ancient buildings at present remaining in the town: one of them is on the south side of High Street, with the date 1613 carved on a pendant in the front, and some old half-timbered cottages in Sheep Street.

There are also the remains of the Antrobus Almshouses, in College Street, now incorporated with a brewery.

Richard Churcher, who had made a fortune as an East India merchant, by his will, dated 16th January, 1722, established and endowed a school called Churcher's College. The wording is as follows: 'I bequest the sum of £3,000

Mapledurham House.

From an old Lithograph.

which I have in the Bank of England, whether called capital or nominal stock, with all the interest which shall be due on the day of my decease, for the establishment of a College in the Borough of Petersfield, consisting of a master and ten or twelve boys, as the trustees shall judge most convenient, according to the annual income, the boys to be taken out of and belonging to the Borough of Petersfield, of any age from 9 to 14, that are healthful boys, and whose parents give securities to the trustees to oblige their sons as much as in them lieth to be bound apprentices unto masters of ships that make their voyage to the East Indies, after they have been educated in the arts of writing, arithmetic and mathematics, chiefly such parte of it which relates to navigation, and after they have had their dyett, cloathing, and tutorage at the bounty of the College, which shall be called by the name of "Churcher's College."' He also left £500 to build a house to receive the boys. The master was expressly directed to be a layman. The boys were to wear a blue gown and cap, with the badge of the East India Company.

It being found difficult to find parents to pledge their boys' careers in accordance with the wishes of the founder, in 1744 a bill was promoted in Parliament to convert the College into an ordinary school. This Act extended the benefits of the College of Petersfield.

From 1784 to 1797 the master was a clergyman instead of a layman, and from 1770 to 1802 the school was practically in the hands of the Jolliffe family.

The method of management produced in 1806 an information by the Attorney-General, and the transfer of the funds into Chancery, where they remained for twenty years.

In November, 1822, the cause was heard, and a decree made in February, 1823, from which the trustees appealed.

In February, 1835, a new scheme was made by the Court, limiting the number of boarders to fourteen, and leaving out all reference to navigation. Practically the school continued as before.

The school was really very badly conducted, and the arrangements for the students in the house in College Street very inadequate. In 1867 the school consisted of 21 boys: 14 foundationers who paid nothing, and 7 day boys who paid. The age of the upper class of boys averaged $11\frac{1}{2}$. The report goes on: 'Their best work was in writing from dictation, in which the average was three mistakes each, the best having none, the worst seven. Their reading was unintelligent. Three of them did a sum in rule of three; but the general knowledge of arithmetic was exceedingly small. One or two boys answered fairly some questions in geography and history. Of thirteen junior boys, whose average age did not exceed nine, many of them read creditably, and five worked correctly a sum in the addition of money. Many of them made sad havoc in attempting to write on their slates the Lord's Prayer, of which the " the livers us from evil " instead of " deliver us " is a specimen. Two of the newcomers could not

repeat it, and many of them only produced a fragmentary form on their slates. I passed down seven places before a boy could tell me the Queen's name.' The reporter adds, after other remarks: 'No trust could have more completely failed to carry out the plain and single intention of the founder than Churcher's College.'

Under the Endowed Schools Act of November, 1876, the College was transferred to new buildings at Ramshill, on the London Road, where it is conducted on public school lines, twelve scholarships being reserved for Petersfield boys, and is now in a flourishing condition. The new building was opened in 1881.

In 1837 the first National School was opened in Golden Ball Street, which was built to accommodate 160 children; and a new National School was built and opened in 1854 for more than three hundred children. These buildings are now held by the School Board, and have been considerably extended.

In 1845 a British School was built to accommodate 110 children; this was, however, closed on the establishment of the School Board.

Other Charities. From Report of Commissioners dated 24th June, 1826.

Antrobus Almshouses

Thomas Antrobus, of Heath House, by his will bearing date 15th July, 1622, directed that his daughter Elizabeth should allow £100,

which he gave for the building of a hospital or almshouse for the poor of Petersfield, for a habitation of so many poor lone men and lone women, as that money would provide to be placed there by the owner or dwellers at Heath House aforesaid, and the churchwardens of Petersfield for the time being; and he desired his good friends, Mr. Barlow and Mr. Arthur Bold, should appoint the place where the said house should be built, and see the same work performed.

By indenture bearing date 30th July, 1624, it appears that the intention expressed in his will as above by Thomas Antrobus, was carried out, and two almshouses in College Street erected, and trustees appointed. It does not appear that there has been any appointment of trustees since, and the remains of the Almshouses are now incorporated in a brewery.

There was no endowment for these Almshouses, so they were sold and the money invested, which produces an amount which allows 2s. per week to two old women who are selected by the churchwardens.

Bishop Lanney's Gift

By indenture of Release, bearing date 24th February, 1690, and founded upon a lease for a year, between Henry Hoope and three others, of the one part, and Leonard Bilson of West Mapledurham, in the parish of Buriton, Esq., and Charles Layfield, Clerk, Rector of that

parish, of the other part, reciting that *Benjamin Lanney*, late Bishop of Ely, and some time Rector of Buriton, in his lifetime gave to the said Leonard Bilson and Thomas Hanbury, Esq., deceased, and to Edmund Barker, D.D., late rector of the said parish, £130 on trust, that said Leonard Bilson and his heirs, owners of the site and mansion-house of Mapledurham, and the said Thomas Hanbury and his heirs, owners of the site and mansion-house of Buriton, together with the Rector for the time being of the said parish, should place the said £130 at interest, or purchase land of that value, and apply the interest or rents for apprenticing the children of such poor people of the parish of Buriton, and the Borough of Petersfield, as should not at that time receive relief from the overseers of the poor of either of those places, the whole benefit of the said money to be for the apprenticing one such child of the parish of Buriton, and for the next year apprenticing one such child of the borough of Petersfield, and so alternately for ever. The apprentices who are appointed under this charity have not been in all instances the children of persons not receiving relief, in consequence of the difficulty of finding proper objects of that description, nor has the premium given with each apprentice been regulated by the precise amount of the year's rent.

Tything of Sheet

LOCK'S GIFT

John Lock, of the Tything of Sheet, by his will bearing date 13th June, 1674, gave to the Tything of Sheet for ever, for maintenance of a sufficient person to teach the poor children of the said Tything to read the English tongue, a yearly rent of 50s. to be issuing out of certain lands at Sheet.

Tything of Weston

GOODYER'S GIFT

John Goodyer, by his will bearing date 22nd April, 1664, gave to Leonard Bilson, Esq., and Edmund Yalden, Clerk, and their heirs, his messuage, with the outhouses, buildings, gardens and orchards thereto belonging, situate in Weston, in the parish of Buriton, and the lands in Weston called Halfpenny Land, etc., on trust, that the yearly rents should be employed for ever for putting forth and placing abroad of poor children of Weston aforesaid, and that the overplus should be distributed to the poorest inhabitants as his said trustees should think fit.

By indenture of Lease and Release, bearing date 16th and 17th February, 1824, Thomas Bonham, Esq., Edmund White, clerk, Brownlow Poulter, clerk, and John Whicher, clerk, as the surviving trustees of this charity, conveyed the trust-premises to the use of themselves and R. G. Richards, clerk, and J. J. Hugonin, Esq., upon the trusts aforesaid.

The rents and dividends of the stock, amounting in the whole to £79 per ann., were received by Mr. Cornthwaite John Hector, who was appointed treasurer by the trustees in 1816, and after deductions for repairs were disposed of as follows:

1. All the poor children of the Tything of Weston, whose parents think fit to apply to the trustees for that purpose, are sent to school and taught gratuitously. The girls and younger boys were placed with a schoolmistress, in the Tything of Weston, at the rate of 6d. per week each. When the boys have attained the age of nine or ten years they are removed to a school at Petersfield, kept by a schoolmaster, who is paid at the rate of 10s. per quarter for each boy.

2. Distributions of money were made amongst all poor persons belonging to the Tything of Weston, in proportion to the numbers in their family.

1. The property of this charity consists of a house, garden, and outbuildings in the Tything of Buriton, and in the town, though not within the borough of Petersfield.

2. About 16 acres of meadow-land in the same Tything and near the town of Petersfield.

3. The sum of £300 stock in the 3 per cent. reduced annuities.

Phillips's Charity

The particulars of this charity are set forth on a marble slab at the west end of the north aisle of the Church, and are as follows:

'Sacred to the memory of Ann Phillips who departed this life the 16th day of January, 1827, aged 80 years.'

In her will she bequeathed £200 three pounds per cent. consols. to C. J. Hector, Esq., the Rev. Wm. Wells and Wm. Mitchel, Esq., upon Trust, to apply the Dividends thereof in and about the cleaning and repairing this monument, and the Vault and Tombstones in the Vestry Room and Churchyard, to the memory of her Father, of her sister Elizabeth Eames, and of her son John Eames. And after payment thereof upon Trust to pay the Dividends to the Officiating Minister and Churchwardens of Petersfield, to be by them laid out in the Purchase of Bread, which Bread so purchased the Testatrix directed should be from time to time distributed on St. Thomas's Day and Christmas Day, in each and every Year, unto and amongst such poor Men and Women, resident in and belonging to the said Parish of Petersfield, who shall have attained the age of fifty-two years.

John Meers

In 1828 Mr. John Meers gave the interest of £166 13s. 4d. to keep some tombs in repair, the residue to be paid to the curate or officiating minister and churchwardens—'to be by him applied in aid of the Sunday School.'

John Lipscomb

In 1846 Mr. John Lipscomb left a piece of land at Liss, intending the rent should be applied for the support of the National Schools, but the gift was pronounced void, under the Statute of Mortmain.

John Holland

In 1848 Mr. John Holland gave £5 per annum for bread to be given to 'Such of the Poor of the parish of Petersfield as have attained the age of fifty-five years.'

Kennett Charity

Mary Ann Kennett, wife of Richard Barlow Kennett, built Almshouses at Stanbridge, in the Parish of Buriton, in 1876. These Almshouses are called the Willow Almshouses, and accommodate three inmates, who are not allowed to sell ginger-beer, etc., by the terms of the will.

She also left £2,000 to the churchwardens for the time being. The interest to be expended in the following manner for the most needy of the poor in Petersfield, viz., coals, blankets, and bread or clothing, which must be purchased at the shop of the late Messrs. Meers, in the Square, to be distributed twice a year on the 21st of December and the 14th of February. No other days to be substituted.

The three inmates of the Almshouses are eligible for the gift, though they are not in the parish of Petersfield.

There is also a sum of sixpence per week for each of the three inmates.

In 1861 the Rev. Thomas Robert Jolliffe left £135 consols., two-thirds of the dividends to be applied to the maintenance of certain monuments in the Church, the rest for the poor at Christmas in coals or other necessaries.

In 1905, by will proved, of Miss Frances Cobbe, she bequeathed £448 2s. 5d. consols. The dividends to be applied at Christmas for providing coals and blankets for the poor of Sheet.

When the weekly horse market in 'The Spain' was abolished, the market in the Square, which was also held weekly, was changed to fortnightly, and is still held on every alternate Wednesday.

In addition, two fairs were held annually, one in the Square on St. Peter's day, and the other on St. Andrew's day. A new fair was added which is still held on the Heath; the two former ones in the Square have been discontinued.

Before the railway was built twenty-five coaches used to pass through Petersfield daily, besides vans and road waggons.

The first sod of this section of the railway from Godalming to Havant was turned at Buriton by Mr. John Bonham-Carter, M.P., on August 13th, 1853; but the line was not open for traffic till 1858. This delay was

largely owing to certain proprietors of land, whose property the line passed through, refusing to allow their property to be encroached upon, until the Company compensated them fully in accordance with the claims of each landowner.

On the 17th January, 1857, the case was considered at the Petty Sessions, and Mr. Simons, a surveyor of Winchester, was called upon by the presiding magistrates to make an award, after viewing the property on the 27th January, so as to prevent any further delay in the progress of the works.

A branch line to Midhurst was opened in 1868.

The cemetery was laid out and the chapels built in 1857, and the town was first lighted by gas in 1852.

St. Mary's Church, Sheet, in the Parish of Petersfield, was built in 1869 from the designs of the late Sir Arthur Blomfield, R.A.

The Union Workhouse was built in 1836.

The first Horticultural Show was held in 1856.

There is a Working Men's Institute and Club in Station Road, and Women's Institute in High Street.

The Literary and Debating Society, which was started about forty years ago, meets on Friday evenings during the winter months, and is in a very flourishing condition.

The Annual Musical Festival is held in the Drill Hall usually the week after Easter week. It was founded in 1901. Competitions for adult

and children's choirs are held the first days of the festival. These choirs are from the neighbouring districts within a radius of about twenty miles. The festival closes with an afternoon concert for children's voices, and three evening concerts for adult voices, and orchestral music by the Petersfield Orchestra.

There are usually a series of chamber concerts given in the afternoon during the winter months.

A series of University Extension Lectures is held in St. Peter's Hall during the autumn months.

The town is fortunate in the possession of a splendid recreation ground called the Heath, which consists of about 85 acres of ground, containing a lake of about 22 acres. There are here several tumuli: some of them were opened in the winter of 1856, but nothing of any interest was discovered, excepting an ovoidal pebble, measuring $8\frac{1}{2}$ ins. by $5\frac{1}{2}$ ins.; what it represents or why it was placed where found is unknown.*

This recreation ground was held in trust by the Lords of the Manor for the use of the inhabitants of Petersfield till 1913, when it was acquired by the Urban District Council. The cricket ground and golf course are situated on it, and lawn tennis courts have recently been added.

The situation and surroundings of the Heath are extremely beautiful, and it affords a fine view of the South Downs from their highest

* See *Archæological Journal*, Vol. XIII.

The Heath Lake.

point, Butser Hill, sweeping away into Sussex in the direction of Midhurst.

On the portion of the Heath called the Horse-patch are indications of hut circles, which suggest that there was a prehistoric village situated on this spot.

The Heath took five years to enclose. As fast as one lot of fencing was put up it was pulled down and burnt, the people being under the impression that they were to be deprived of the use of it.

There was no Heath Road then, only a sandy track across it.

In 'Hampshire Repository,' Vol. II, is the following passage:

'The western part of an extensive heath, called South Heath, which lies in the tythings of Nursted and Sheet, and on which the tenants of these tythings had an extensive right of depasturing cattle, was formerly a morass and leased as a turbary in 1614 by the Lord of the Manor of Mapledurham, under the yearly rent of 40s., and in this state remained until 1741, when the tenants, feeling the inconvenience of their cattle being mixed in the morass, attempted to drain it; but finding it impracticable they, at their own expense, threw up a bank to collect a body of water, and then stocked it with fish, but added no pen stock, from which time it continues in the same state without mark to determine the property to anyone, but was made, as it still continues (1789), a wide waste of water. No tythes have been paid for the fish in this pond, nor any action brought for subtraction of

tythes, as fish bred in waste waters are considered "Feræ naturæ," and therefore not tytheable.'*

There was a camp on the Heath in 1758. From a letter from Mrs. Westbrook, quoted in the 'Petersfield Scrap Book' (a series of articles published in the *Hants and Sussex News* in 1892), it appears that the volunteers, or militia, had a band which used to perform on the Heath, on what is now called 'The Music Hill.' The militia was disembodied on 23rd December, 1792.

The Neighbourhood

About two miles to the west of Petersfield is situated Durford Mill, on the River Rother. Here formerly stood Durford Abbey.

Nothing remains of the building except Durford Farmhouse, which contains some of the ancient stonework in its walls. The site of the burial ground can be traced, and fish ponds.

There is a monumental slab, probably the cover of a stone coffin, now placed upright in a modern wall; it is illustrated in W. H. Blaauw's 'History of Durford Abbey,' published in

* Dr. T. F. Hunt wrote to Mr. Caryll, of Harting, on March 7th, 1753:

'As news, Mr. Gibbon (the father of the Historian) and Mr. Jolliffe are going to Law about Petersfield Great Pond, each claiming it as their own; but the valiant Mr. Gibbon has cut down the Pond Head, and publicly fished him, as also removed all Mr. Jolliffe's Bound Stones, set thereabouts as Boundaries to the Pond.'

(From Caryll Correspondence, Vol. IV, pp. 147-8.)

1856, who says, 'Although the Abbey of Dureford was founded in the twelfth century, and flourished nearly four hundred years, there is nothing of national importance in its history, from its origin to its final suppression.'

There is a picturesque ancient stone bridge over the river at this spot.

Selborne, which lies at the foot of Selborne Hanger, is about six miles from Petersfield, and is noted as the place where Gilbert White, author of 'The Natural History of Selborne,' lived and wrote. There is no mention of Petersfield in his book, and although so near he never seems to have visited the town.*

Buriton

This village is situated about three miles to the south-east of Petersfield close under the Downs, near the entrance of the South Western Railway tunnel.

It is the parent Church of Petersfield, and is mentioned in Domesday, but there are no remains earlier than at Petersfield.

The thirteenth-century chancel is separated from the nave by a screen of Norway oak, and in it are three arched recesses, forming sedilia or seats for the priests. The aisles are separated from the nave by Norman arches.

The existing ivy-covered tower has its history in the Church Book as follows:

'Memord.—Monday morning, between 4

*The road from Alton to Petersfield was only made in 1820, which may account for White not visiting Petersfield.

and 5 of the clock, the 17th day of November, Anno 1712, Berriton steeple, being shingled, and about: 80: foot high, took fire, by a very Terrible Tempest of Thunder and Lightening, nigh the top, and was Burn'd down: the foure Bells were brak down and melted. And the new Tower was Rebuilt in Anno 1714, and the five new Bells were hanged up Anno 1715, at the expense of the Parish, and by severall good Benefactors. The Barnes at the Manor house oft times caught fire, but the People prevented the damage, and saved them.'

From the same book we learn that the tower cost £320 15s. 7d. and the clock £20.

The mural monuments mention the names of various landed proprietors of the parish; but Gibbon's name is not there. His family acquired property in Buriton and Petersfield early in the eighteenth century. The old Manor House was built by Gibbon's father, who as a 'South Sea' Director became involved in the ruin of that Company.

The Manor of Mapledurham is in this parish, and is mentioned in Doomsday Book as belonging to Queen Matilda, the wife of William the Conqueror, and probably included the whole of the present parish.

Edward I granted by charter to the Bishop of Winchester free Warren of the Manor of Mapledurham.

Its principal estate was purchased in 1722 by Edward Gibbon, Esq., the father of the author of 'The Decline and Fall of the Roman Empire,' who was born here in 1787, and in

1770 succeeded, on the death of his father, to the estate, which he sold ten years after to Lord Stawell, who sold it to H. Bonham, Esq., and it afterwards became the property of John Bonham-Carter, M.P.

From Doomsday Survey, A.D. 1080, till the beginning of the nineteenth century, the Manor and Borough of Petersfield, and Manor of Mapledurham, had always been held by the same person. After it became the property of Edwd. Gibbon, the grandfather of the historian, by purchase from Ralph Bucknoll in 1719, it was divided. 'The Petersfield Case,' published in 1831, gives the year 1739 as the year in which the Manor and Borough of Petersfield was separated from the Ancient Manor of Mapledurham, and became the property of Mr. John Jolliffe.

The elder Gibbon was at one time M.P. for Petersfield in 1734, and his son was a candidate in the year 1761, but to his great disappointment was not elected.

Edward Gibbon, born at Buriton, 1737, records recollections of his childhood, passed at Buriton, in the following words: 'The aspect of the adjacent grounds (Buriton Manor) was various and cheerful; the Downs commanded the prospect of the sea, and the long hanging woods could not perhaps have been improved by art or expense.'

Bishop Lowth was born at Buriton, November, 1710.

The Blounts (or Blunts) were in possession of Mapledurham at the time of the Jubilee of

George III. There is a monument by Chantry to one of them in Petersfield Church.

The Rev. J. M. Sumner was the last Rector of Buriton and Petersfield; after his death in 1885 the parishes were divided, and Petersfield became a vicarage.

The porch on the north side of Petersfield Church was erected as a memorial to Mr. Sumner.

Froxfield

This parish lies about four miles to the north-west of Petersfield, and is situated on a plateau about 700 ft. above the sea.

It is approached from Petersfield by the road to Alton which, after passing through Steep, ascends Stonor Hill by a wonderfully beautiful pass, winding along the sides of the hills clothed with hanging woods.

Passing along the Ridge, we come to perhaps the most magnificent view in the district. Looking over the valley in which Petersfield lies, we have a view of the range of the South Downs from Butser, on the right, stretching away in the distance to Chanctonbury ring on the left.

There is a modern church here, in which the old Norman arcade has been rebuilt, forming the north aisle.

Through the parish of Froxfield runs an embankment from south-east to north-west called the Ridge, where several flint implements

and arrow-heads have been discovered, which may have formed the boundary between Wessex and Sussex. The natural eastern boundary of the county of Hampshire would seem to be the line of the hills, and the reason why the valley containing Petersfield happens to be included in Hampshire may have been that the present boundary indicates the distance to which the Jutes penetrated eastwards on their invasion.

Steep

Steep is about two miles to the north of Petersfield. The church is an interesting building, largely of the thirteenth century. The arcades separating the aisles are twelfth-century work, and in the churchyard is a famous old yew tree.

The well-known Bedale's School is situated in this parish. It was removed from Hayward's Heath in 1900.

A branch of the River Rother takes its rise at Asford in this parish, through which it runs, afterwards passing through Sheet and Durford.

Another branch, which rises at Stroud, also in this parish, passes through Petersfield and joins the Rother between Sheet and Durford.

Harting

Harting is in Sussex, about four miles to the east-south-east of Petersfield, and lies close to the foot of some of the highest of the South

Downs, the views from which, especially from Up Park, are equal to any in the neighbourhood.

The Church, which is largely of the thirteenth century, and has a copper covered spire, is very picturesquely situated, and there are the remains of some fine monuments to the members of the Caryll family, now exposed in the churchyard, but which were originally in a chapel which has been demolished.

Outside the churchyard are the remains of the village stocks.

Roman Remains

Between Petersfield and Froxfield the remains of a Roman villa and camp have been discovered (this is described in the *Archæological Journal*, Vol. XII). An extensive Roman villa was uncovered a few years ago at the Stroud, in the Parish of Steep, near the Winchester Road. It has, however, been covered up again.

The remains of a camp are discernible at Butser. It is mentioned by Camden in his 'Monumenta Britannica,' who describes it as a 'Roman Camp'; more recent antiquarians consider it decidedly British. There are several Barrows there.

Some Anecdotes of the Past connected with Petersfield

The following notice was exhibited over a shop-front in the Square:

'John Small,
Linen Draper, Silk Mercer, &c.
The said John Small,
Wishes it to be known to all,
That he doth make both Bat and Ball
And will play any man in England
for Five pounds a side.'

John Small was born at Emshott, April 19th, 1737, but was brought to Petersfield six years later. He eventually became famous as a cricketer, and took to making bats and balls.

As a cricketer his success was phenomenal, and in the field he was said to be unequalled. He was one of the first members of the Hambledon Club, and survived all his contemporaries. The first County Match he played in was in 1753. In a match arranged by the Duke of Dorset, or Sir Horace Mann, Hambledon against all England, Small kept his wicket up for three whole days and then carried his bat.

Mr. Small lived until 1826, dying the last day of the year, within a few days of his ninetieth birthday.

Hambledon is a village about eight miles south of Petersfield, over the Downs.

The Sheep Fair, formerly held in the Square in December, was locally known as the 'Gin Hot Day.' It was the custom for the tradesmen and farmers to have a whip round and expend the proceeds in the purchase of hot beer and gin, which was sent round in a bucket during the morning.

At a Parliamentary Election held during the eighteen forties, two booths were erected in the

Square, well supplied with beer, to capture hostile votes during the day. One party managed, by use of the same, to overcome a fairly large number, and had them locked up in the Old Bell Inn coach-house, and they were not let out until too late to record their votes.

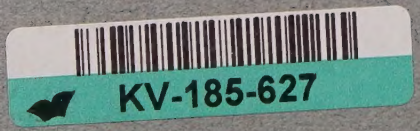
In 1918, in *The Ampleforth Journal*, an account by Abbot Cummins, O.S.B., is given of an adventure at Petersfield (called Petrefoid in his account). The narrator was accidentally locked in the church one Easter Eve, and being unable to get out, went to sleep on one of the seats; he was awakened by the clock striking the midnight hour, and observed the figure of an elderly man, in antiquated costume, proceeding down the nave. He followed it, and it disappeared up the belfry stairs, where he was unable to follow it.

The next day he called on the Vicar, who turned up the parish register and found an entry under the year 1634: 'April 14th, Easter Sunday, J. G., the sexton, was found dead in the belfry hanging by the neck from a bell rope.'

Easter Day, 1918, was also April 14th, so the narrator says; but the dates will not work.*

The belfry at present is not entered from the inside of the Church, but it may have been in 1634.

*In 1634 Easter Day fell on April 6th, and in 1918 on March 31st.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